From Olam? Via Hal

STATEMENT OF JERRY MILTON BROOKS

My name is Jerry Milton Brooks. I am 37 years of age. I live at 3021 McGee Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

I first became associated with the Minutemen organization in 1961 in Illinois. I met Bob DePugh in 1962 and became associated with him and the Minutemen organization after that time. I went to Norborne, Missouri, in 1965 with my mother, Mrs. Velma Smith, to work for Bob DePugh as a printer. My mother, though in poor health, lived with me in a comfortable envirement conducive to the improvement of her health. I was in Norborne from about mid-September of 1965 until the first week of December, 1965. While in Norborne, I was closely associated with and worked with Mr. Raithby Husted.

In early December, 1965, my mother and I were taken from our home in Norborne by a police officer. The trip from Norborne to Kansas City was very hazardous for my mother and she became very sick. We went to Kansas City where we took up residence. One day after my arrival I was contacted by FBI Agent George Arnett. He told me that he wanted to find out about the Minutemen and he said if I did not coqperate, I would be in some kind of trouble. I told him that my work with the organization was such that I did not know much about the organization. My mother was also questioned and harrassed on several different occassions by Federal agents which undoubtedly contributed to her subsequent death.

In January, 1966, I was contacted by Ed Tarleton and Jack Smith of the Alcohol and Tobacco Division of the Treasury Department. They insisted that they wanted to know about my activities with the Minutemen and that I must cooperate and give them information or I would be in serious trouble. They asked me if I had seen any machine guns in the time that I had been connected with the Minutemen. I told them, "No, I have not." They said they had a signed statement of Raithby Husted that I had seen machine guns and was present when machine guns were involved at the Minutemen organizational place at Norborne in 1965. They claimed that I had guilty knowledge of this matter and would be involved in criminal prosecution if I did not cooperate with them. They threatened me again and again with criminal prosecution. I told them I had not seen or had to do with machine guns and did not know of any machine guns being involved with the Minutemen; and I did not care what kind of signed statements they had from Raithby Husted; that I knew that they were either lying or mistaken. They questioned me for a long period of time and then left. About a week or two later a man named Judson F. Doyle, who identified himself as being from the St. Louis office of the Alcohol and Tobacco Division of the Treasury Department, together with Jack Smith and Ed Tarleton, came and took me from my home down to the Federal Building in Kansas City.

These three agents wanted me to draw a sketch of the Biolab offices at Norborne, which I did. I also, at their insistence, gave them the names of members of the Minutemen organization who were openly known and I told them what they wanted to know about these people in regard to their membership. They questioned me for approximately four hours. Judson F. Doyle wrote a statement which was then typed and given to me to sign. A great part of that statement was false and I was forced to perjure myself when I signed this statement. The statement included perjury to the effect that I had seen Wally Peyson at the Biolab offices searching for machine gun parts and that he had a machine gun at the offices. The truth of the matter is that I never saw a machine gun there at Norborne in the Biolab offices in 1965 or at any other time. I never did see Wally Peyson engaged in any activities involving machine guns or having a machine gun or having anything to do with a machine gun. A further part of that perjury was that I was present when Bob DePugh ordered Wally Peyson and Raithby Husted to bury automatic weapons, illegal weapons, and I believe it also had in the statement reference to machine guns. This was not true as I never heard Bob DePugh order Wally Peyson or Raithby Husted to have anything to do with any machine guns or disposing or burying any machine guns or having anything to do with transportation or any other activity regarding machine guns of any kind. Further perjury involved the alleged fact that I saw one Stephen W. Sevits in possession of an illegal silencer-equipped 22 caliber pistol in or about Kansas City, Norborne, and Independence, Missouri in 1965. At no time did I ever see any of these facts occur regarding Mr. Sevits. I was also coerced into making a false statement that one Jack Cannon had been employed by Bob DePugh to manufacture or to assemble a machine gun. I further perjured myself by stating that Wally Peyson told a man named Jack Cannon to get to work on these matters because Bob DePugh had paid Cannon to do this kind of work. This is not true and I never heard any such conversation and have no reason to believe that anything like that ever occurred. I further made a false statement that I had seen Troy Houghton fire a semi-automatic 22 caliber silencer-equipped pistol at Independence, Missouri in the summer of 1965. This is false. Also included in this false and perjured statement, is a statement to the effect that I saw at a Minutemen training session at 611-613 E. Alton Street, Independence, Missouri, in the summer of 1965, illegal automatic weapons including sten guns, grease guns, and five or six Thompson sub-machine guns. I never did see any such weapons at that time or place or at any other time or place in connection with the Minutemen and this was a completely false statement which these Federal agents had me sign concerning these matters.

I have read the above page and it is my true statement made this May 9, 1967.

Jerry Milton Brooks

The reason that I lied about all this and I signed this false statement is that Judson F. Doyle, Jack Smith, and Edward Tarleton all told me in one way or another and repeatedly that day that there was going to be criminal prosecution against Bob DePugh and Wally Peyson; and that if I did not cooperate and do as they told me, I would be prosecuted with them and could expect to go to the penitentiary with them. If I would cooperate with these agents and sign this false statement, I would be given immunity from prosecution.

There were certain other items in the statement they had me sign which were false, but they never did provide me with a copy of this statement and I am not sure about all of the other details they included in the statement. In addition to threatening me with criminal prosecution, they also threatened me with being put in a mental institution and that they would put me away and I would be subject to very severe, harsh treatment if I did not cooperate and do what I was told by them. They said that I could expect to spend from ten years to life in the penitentiary or mental institution if I did not cooperate with them and do and say what they told me to. This was repeatedly told to me by Federal agents up to the time of the trial of Bob DePugh and Wally Peyson in November, 1966. I was later taken before a Grand Jury in the summer of 1966. Between January, 1966, and the summer of 1966, I was isolated from my friends in the Minutemen. I lied about all of the above items and told the same lies to the Grand Jury that were contained in the statement which the Treasury agents had prepared. During the week prior to the Grand Jury, I was kept under constant surveillance by Federal agents. I was told after I had made and signed this statement in January, 1966, that I had better stay away from the Minutemen because, by this time, they would know that I had made such a statement and that my life would be in jeopardy if they got ahold of me. The federal agents told me this repeatedly in their contacts with me between January and the summer of 1966.

When I saw Raithby Husted at the Federal Building shortly before the Grand Jury testimony in the summer of 1966, he told me that he had been threatened and coerced into making a statement which was false, and that some federal agents had drugged him and he had been physically mistreated including a beating and made to sign a statement. I saw agents beating Raithby Husted in the Federal Building in Kansas City the day he returned from giving a sworn statement to Mr. DePugh and shortly before he was to testify before the Grand Jury. He also told me that they had promised him immunity from prosecution if he would testify as he was told to by the federal agents. Raithby Husted also told me that he was in some kind of difficulty in California and that he was promised immunity from prosecution for the difficulty in California if he would testify as they wanted him to before the Grand Jury in Kansas City. He said also that he was told to perjure himself and was told the precise testimony to give before the Grand Jury.

The government used a witness named Alfred Summerford against Wally Peyson and Bob DePugh in the trial in November of 1966. He had been a former member of the Minutemen but had been apparently disassociated with them in late 1964 or early 1965. I had heard certain information about his prior possible criminal connections in Florida. In 1962, Al Summerford had told me that his fondest wish was to go to Washington, D.C., and assassinate President Kennedy and to blow up the White House and the Capitol Building. He also said that he wanted to kill all the members of the Senate and the Congress. I assumed that he was just making ridiculous statements, but I became concerned in 1965 about his activities, and so I reported his prior statement to the agents of the FBI. They told me to desist from making such statements about Summerford and I was told that I should desist from commenting about this to anyone and if I did not that I would end up in the mental institution for making such statements. I asked what they meant and they told me that the government would see to it that I was put away if I did not shut up and desist from this kind of statement about their witness, Al Summerford.

I have read the above typewritten statement consisting of 2 typewritten pages and it is true [illegible] have freely and honestly given it this Ninth day of May, 1967.

Jerry Milton Brooks
Jerry Milton Brooks

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)SS
COUNTY OF MARION)

Before me this day appeared Jerry Milton Brooks, who on his oath stated that the above statement is true and that he has given the same as his free act and deed.

Notary Public

My commission expires November 6, 1969